

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SCA-01

DRC-01 RSC-01 /044 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3164

UNCLAS CARACAS 02639

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN

SUBJECT: PENULTIMATE FIGHTS OVER FIGHT

REF: CARACAS 2595

1. THIS MORNING WORLD CHAMPION FOREMAN'S MANAGER CALLED ME TO SAY HIS BOY COULD NOT LEAVE VENEZUELA TODAY BECAUSE FIGHT PROMOTER ROMERO HAD SEQUESTERED HIS PASSPORT. LATER IN THE MORNING WE HAD A SIMILAR COMPLAINT FROM NORTON'S MANAGER.

I ASKED CONSUL GENERAL PHELAN TO GET ON TO THIS PROBLEM BECAUSE THERE IS NO WARRANT FOR VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES TO SEQUESTER PASSPORTS OF U.S. CITIZENS ALTHOUGH THERE IS A FURTHER POINT AS TO EXIT PERMISSION FOR BOTH FIGHTERS UNLESS ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE RE PAYMENT OF POTENTIAL INCOME TAXES. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT FOREMAN WILL NOW DEPART TOMORROW AND NOT TODAY AS AT FIRST INDICATED.

2. LIKEWISE ON THE PHONE THIS MORNING WAS MY FRIEND SCHWARTZ, WHO SAID ROMERO HAD LIED TO HIM AND ME YESTERDAY (PARA FOUR

REFTEL) IN ASSURING US THAT THE TAX HAD BEEN WAIVED. SCHWARTZ SAID THAT

TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VENEZUELAN TAX AUTHORITIES WERE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY TO CALL ON HIM; AND I GAVE HIM THE NAME OF A GOOD AMERICAN ATTORNEY WHO IS LIKEWISE A MEMBER OF THE VENEZUELAN BAR.

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3. CONSUL GENERAL PHELAN ASSURES ME THAT BOTH FOREMAN AND NORTON WILL BE PERMITTED TO DEPART VENEZUELA, THEIR PASSPORTS NOW HAVING BEEN RETURNED, BUT PROBABLY WITH THE POSTING OF A BOND BY THEIR MANAGERS AGAINST THE EVENTUAL IMPOSITION OF A TAX.

4. IN ANY EVENT, THE FIGHT WENT OFF AND WE ARE STILL ON.
MCCLINTOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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